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WEIZMAN CONFERS WITH SADAT PRIOR TO OPENING OF TALKS BETWEEN ISRAELI- EGYPTIAN MILITARY COMMITTEE By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 11 (JTA)--Defense Minister Ezer Weizman flew to Cairo this morning and from there to Aswan where he held a 30-minute meeting with President Anwar Sadat before the joint Israeli-Egyptian military committee had its ceremonial opening session this evening in the Egyptian capital. Working sessions will start tomorrow and Weizman indicated, before his departure and on his arrival in Cairo that negotiations will be long and tough.

On landing at Cairo Airport, he told reporters, "We are facing another war, not an easy one, the war for peace. We hope that like in all previous wars, we shall be victorious in this one as well." He said he did not know what subjects Sadat wanted to discuss with him at Aswan prior to the military committee talks. "We are old friends," he added.

No details of the Sadat-Weizman talks were officially available. However, according to reports from what was termed as well informed sources in Cairo, the two men dealt with their differing views on the Jewish settlements in Sinai and how best to tackle this issue.

Israel, the reports said, suggested the issue be included in a declaration of principles on a Middle East peace which Israel and Egypt are scheduled to discuss at the political committee meeting beginning next Monday in Jerusalem. Egypt reportedly suggested that the settlement issue be linked to the work of the military committee which is dealing with the Sinai issue, including a withdrawal timetable. (See story P.3.)

Elements Of Committee Talks Indicated

When Weizman left Ben Gurion Airport at the head of the Israeli military delegation, he said there would be "difficult moments" during the negotiations but that they would not "prevent us from striving toward the main goal so important to us and the Egyptians alike, peace."

Weizman indicated that the military talks will begin with a discussion of Israel's security needs. His Egyptian counterpart, War Minister Mohammed Gamassy, apparently has agreed. But Israel and Egypt have completely different approaches to this problem and the Egyptians are insisting that the issue of Israeli settlements in northern Sinai should also top the agenda.

Weizman and Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur who is a member of the Israeli military delegation, briefed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee yesterday on the upcoming talks. According to their summation, the deliberations of the military committee will focus on two central issues: how to reach a peace agreement with Egypt under conditions that will not jeopardize Israel's security and how Egypt would react were Israel to become embroiled in hostile acts with other Arab countries.

Weizman and Gur told the MKs that the opening positions of both sides are wide apart. Both sides strive for peace, but in entirely different ways, Weizman said. He said he could not guar-

antee that an agreement will be reached at Cairo but he was convinced, by his three meetings with Sadat in the past month, that there is good will on the part of both governments.

Israel's View On Sinai

Weizman and Gur insisted that according to the government's peace plan Israel's security requirements can be ensured even if Egypt regains sovereignty over all of Sinai. Given the sophistication and mobility of its arms, Israel can afford to agree to Egypt's return to the old international borders, Weizman said. But he stressed that Israel would continue to control certain positions in Sinai, both military installations and civilian regions.

During the interim period, which Israel says must last at least 3-5 years, Israel will retain three military air bases in the Rafah salient and the Sharm el-Sheikh region, Weizman said. In the next stage, however, Israel will keep only the military air base and turn the other two over to the civilian settlers for their use. He warned that the negotiations will be "very difficult" but stressed that it was worth taking risks for peace if they lead to a stage where Israel and Egypt would exchange ambassadors and have normal trade relations.

Weizman disclosed that Premier Menachem Begin gave him an oral message to convey to Sadat. He said Begin was asking the Egyptian leader to end the war of statements and counter-statements of the past week. Begin also instructed Weizman to clarify for Sadat Israel's obligation towards its settlements in Sinai and its policy of strengthening existing settlements there.

The war of statements referred to by Begin is now being conducted in the Egyptian press. The semi-official daily Al Ahran warned today that the Arabs are in a position to make war on Israel if Begin misses the chance for peace. The paper said Begin was wrong if he thought he could create a rift among the Arabs and impose a peace on Israel's terms.

UN WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN TALKS OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 11 (JTA)--The United Nations will not participate in the proceedings of the Israeli-Egyptian political committee to convene here next Monday, Kurt Waldheim, UN Secretary General, informed Israel yesterday. He reportedly said that Gen. Ensio Siilasvuo, the senior UN representative to the Mideast, who represented the UN at the Cairo conference last month, will not take part in the Jerusalem talks.

Ephraim Evron, director general of the Foreign Ministry, met with Siilasvuo Monday and asked him to convey to Waldheim Israel's desire that he be present at the Jerusalem meeting since it is an extension of the earlier Cairo conference. However, Waldheim responded that no UN representative would be present at the meeting. The reason was not reported. The Foreign Ministry expressed its regret at the decision. Siilasvuo himself heard of the decision from reporters, and would not comment.

Meanwhile, preparations are in full swing for the political committee talks. An Egyptian airliner arrived yesterday afternoon at Ben Gurion Airport with a group of security men, technicians and communications personnel. The talks are due to convene

at the Jerusalem Hilton, which will also serve as the residence for the Egyptian contingent.

The media, which was to have had its communications at the Hilton, will be headquartered for the duration at the nearby Binyanei Ha'uma convention hall where a special communications center will be installed. Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan refused to have the media, either local or foreign, staying and working at the same hotel where the committee will hold its talks. Security considerations are believed to have prompted his decision.

NEW IMMIGRANTS FOR YAMIT

TEL AVIV, Jan. 11 (JTA)--Absorption Minister David Levi said yesterday that his office will channel new immigrants to Yamit, in northern Sinai, to augment the local population. Noting that Yamit has a great future, Levi said the development town and the settlements around it will not be deserted. "They will not come under any Egyptian administration," he said, adding that the government will see to it that the settlements are developed and defended. "The government will aid Yamit tomorrow even more than today," he said.

Meanwhile, it was reported that 54 plots which had been cleared for private dwellings in Yamit were sold out within half an hour at IL 40,000 (\$2600) each and that there were many more clamoring for similar plots. The plan to construct private dwellings, which had been publicized under the slogan, "Build Your Home At Yamit," is considered such a huge success that plots for 100 additional dwellings are now being planned.

ANTI-BEGIN PEACE PLAN COALITION PRESSURING PREMIER TO CHANGE HIS VIEW By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Jan. 11 (JTA)--A coalition of opponents of Premier Menachem Begin's peace plan that crosses party lines is mounting an all-out attempt to force Begin to change his positions which they view as "surrender." The two most outspoken rejectionists, Likud-MK Geula Cohen and Labor MK Moshe Shamir, held a press conference here today to explain their opposition and announce their plans.

They were joined by like-minded "hawks" of Likud, the Labor Alignment, the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC) and the National Religious Party (NRP). The latter factions, both partners in Begin's coalition government, were represented by Meir Zorea and Rabbi Haim Druckman.

Shamir, who erected a tent outside the Prime Minister's Office as a makeshift protest headquarters, said the group would demonstrate for the rest of the week. He announced a mass rally for tomorrow to denounce the peace plan and warn the country of the dangers it holds for Israel. Shamir lashed out at the joint Israeli-Egyptian military committee convening in Cairo today. He said it should be called the "Sinai surrender committee" because the main topic will be "the total withdrawal of Israel from the Sinai."

Demands Begin Be Stopped

Cohen urged Begin to "stop now" before it is too late. Asked if she would leave Likud to form an opposition party, she said she intended to voice her opposition within the party "as long as I am allowed to open my mouth." Zorea, whose views clash with those of many of his DMC colleagues, charged that Begin has already given up too much

in Sinai.

Another protest rally was held this afternoon at Kfar Etzion on the West Bank between Jerusalem and Hebron. Minister of Agriculture Ariel Sharon who was listed as the main speaker failed to show up. He sent a message at the last minute saying that as a Cabinet member he was forced to abstain from taking part in the protest.

Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren and a delegation from the Chief Rabbinate met with Begin today. Although Goren has not come out publicly in opposition to the peace plan, he reportedly told the Premier that it "worried" him. A spokesman for the Prime Minister's Office later denied that the rabbis had criticized the plan. Goren said that after meeting Begin he felt "calmer."

SPECIAL TO JTA SADAT TO SCHINDLER: EGYPT WILL GUARANTEE THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL By David Landau

ASWAN, Jan. 11 (JTA)--President Anwar Sadat assured Rabbi Alexander Schindler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, "that Egypt guarantees the security of Israel." In a conversation yesterday at his rest home here with the American Jewish leader, Egypt's President expressed awareness of American Jewry's concern for Israel's security--and made determined efforts to allay anxieties. On the fear of an eventual Soviet-backed Palestine Liberation Organization rule on the West Bank, Sadat said: "We don't want them there any more than you do."

Schindler is returning to Israel and to the U.S. with a three-point message from Sadat: that his desire for and commitment to peace is earnest and sincere; that the present negotiations are a "unique" opportunity which, if not seized, could be lost forever; and that Egypt appreciates Israel's security concerns and can vouch for Israel's security after peace is signed.

Schindler for his part stressed that only Israel can be the judge of what its security requires, and that American Jewry would back the Israeli government's decision on security--whatever it might be.

In their 45-minute talk, Sadat and Schindler stuck mainly to the broadly acceptable verbiage of peace and security and apparently steered clear of controversial specifics. The presence of Sadat's wife, Jihan, and of Schindler's wife, Rhea, gave the occasion a social rather than intensely political aura. Schindler himself told reporters later that the conversation had not dwelt "specifically" on the Palestinian issue.

Schindler stressed to Sadat, it was learned, his belief that the peacemaking process would be drawn out and arduous--and Sadat appeared to agree. He replied that where matters of (Israel's) security were concerned he would have unhurried patience.

Arab States Would Fall Into Line

Sadat stressed several times that Egypt could proceed completely unhindered in the Arab world, and implied that if an agreement were reached with Israel the other Arab states would quickly fall into line.

He swept aside Schindler's cautious observation that "You are not--forgive me--the only leader in the Arab world... Israel is surrounded by other sources of danger." Sadat stressed repeatedly that he represented at this moment in his dialogue with

Israel "at least one-third of the Arab world," and that beyond numbers and fractions Egypt was the linchpin to the fate of the conflict.

The Egyptian leader also exhibited an acute awareness of the political power and influence of American Jewry. (It was this awareness, indeed, which had presumably motivated his invitation, through his Washington Ambassador Ashraf Ghorbal, to Schindler to visit him.)

While he did not directly urge Schindler to bring his influence to bear on the Israeli government in a particular direction, the consciousness that American Jewry has such influence permeated the entire conversation.

Schindler Meets With The Press

After the meeting, Schindler held an impromptu press conference on the lawn of the guest house for the 40-odd local and foreign newsmen present. "My message to the President," Schindler told the reporters, "was of U.S. Jewry's concern for Israel's security, and of its appreciation for what he has done in the cause of peace."

Schindler steered delicately through a barrage of tough political questions from some of Cairo's top correspondents, warning against "sloganeering from afar" and expressing his confidence that both the Palestinian problem and the question of the settlements would find their solution in the peace talks.

"Is it only the question of Israel's security that worries the American Jewish community?" Al Ahram's Hamdi Fuad asked disingenuously. "That above all else is our concern," Schindler replied. Fuad: "Not Arab security?" Schindler (not disconcerted): "Well, of course. It's reciprocal. Arab security, too. I don't think there is a Jew in the world or an Israeli—except perhaps some madman—who has an expansionist idea."

Asked about Palestinian self-determination, Schindler replied pointedly that he shared "the general preception that an independent state—at the moment at least—would prove a security threat. And I haven't heard anything publicly from President Sadat which makes me believe that it (a Palestinian independent state) is something that he particularly desires." Interestingly, there was no dissent to this from among the assembled Egyptian correspondents.

The Schindlers and Yehuda Hellman, executive director of the Presidents Conference, flew down from Cairo in midmorning in a special jet carrying Vice President Husni Mubarak to Aswan for consultations with Sadat. Mubarak took part in the meeting with Schindler. "He's a very good and wise Vice President," Schindler said of him to Sadat as reporters took pictures and recorded their small talk before the meeting. "He spent entire hours singing your praises. I myself was a vice-president once..." Sadat seemed enormously pleased and amused at this and laughed lustily.

ISRAEL SUBMITS 5-POINT PROPOSAL TO MILITARY COMMITTEE CONFERENCE By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 11 (JTA)—The joint Israeli-Egyptian military committee convened late this evening and immediately went into a closed session that began at Al Tahara Palace in Heliopolis, just outside of Cairo. Israel released the five-point proposal that it is submitting to Egypt just before the two-hour meeting began. The proposals are:

Phased withdrawal of Israeli military forces from Sinai; designation in the Sinai of areas of limited forces and armaments; demilitarized zones and the presence of United Nations forces; main-

tenance of Israeli settlements in Sinai and the determination of their status; the status of Israeli airfields in Sinai; control over security measures.

In his opening address, Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman reiterated those points and called on Jordan, Syria and Lebanon to join in the peace talks. He said that the senior military officers assembled in Cairo today were undertaking a great mission—the termination of wars and the construction of peace for the benefit of the entire region. Weizman said Israel was seeking an arrangement that will permit the continued existence of its settlements in the border area and the proper protection of them.

He said Israel also sought the limitation and reduction of forces, the separation of forces and the creation of demilitarized zones for the purpose of an effective early warning system. He said Israel wanted to establish effective controls to see that the agreements are observed. Another point sought by Israel is the establishment of free and secure navigation in the adjacent waterways. Weizman said that once secure borders are established, harmony between Israel and Egypt could turn the region into a flourishing garden spot.

The military committee met amid handshakes and smiles but with minimal ceremony. The initial sessions will continue until Friday when the Israeli delegation returns to Israel for consultations. It is assumed that the committee will concentrate on drafting an agenda during the remainder of the week.

WEIZMAN REASSURES SADAT ON BEGIN'S HARD-LINE SPEECH TO HERUT By David Landau

ASWAN, Jan. 11 (JTA)—Defense Minister Ezer Weizman conferred privately with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt at the latter's rest home here this morning and returned to Cairo for the opening of the joint Israeli-Egyptian military committee meeting. Correspondents were kept at a distance from Sadat's quarters and when Weizman departed 50 minutes later with Egyptian War Minister Mohammed Gamassy, the only other participant in the talks, reporters were unable to elicit any comment from either of them.

But before Weizman and Sadat began their meeting, the Israeli defense chief was overheard reassuring Sadat about a hard-line speech Premier Menachem Begin made to his Herut constituents Sunday in which he warned Egypt that he might withdraw his peace offer if Egypt refused to recognize Israel's principles with respect to settlements in northern Sinai.

"He (Begin) has a tendency to get excited," Weizman was heard saying. "You know, politics in a democracy... and he's got some troubles..." Weizman was also heard telling the President that he had "regards from Begin" and that Begin was "working too hard but is all right."

After Weizman and Gamassy drove off, U.S. Ambassador Hermann Eilts went in to see Sadat. He told reporters he had come to Aswan at his own request to discuss "the general situation" with the President. He did not elaborate. He also confirmed that Weizman's visit was requested by Sadat and that he had acted "as mailman." Eilts said he thought Secretary of State Cyrus Vance might "possibly" visit Arab countries after attending the Israeli-Egyptian political committee talks opening in Jerusalem Monday.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**WHAT IS HUSSEIN WAITING FOR?**

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 11 (JTA)--The passive role of King Hussein of Jordan ever since Egyptian President Anwar Sadat launched his spectacular peace initiative last November has puzzled and disappointed many observers. Why has the Hashemite ruler chosen to be a spectator to the momentous events of the past two months is a question asked in Israel and abroad. What is Hussein waiting for?

According to a leading analyst of Middle Eastern affairs who specializes on Jordan, the question is not whether but when Jordan will take an active role in the negotiations crucial to its future. Dr. Asher Susser, head of the Jordanian Desk of the Shiloah Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies at Tel Aviv University, believes it is a matter of timing and in that respect Hussein appears to be both astute and patient.

"Any active move made by him involving the West Bank would also involve, indirectly, the Palestine issue," Susser explained. "Since the Rabat Arab summit conference of 1974 conferred responsibility for the Palestinians solely upon the Palestine Liberation Organization, and because Sadat's initiative is still unpopular in the Arab world and its prospects of success are still distant, an early initiative by Hussein might be counterproductive and self-defeating," Susser said.

"By a premature move, Hussein would leave himself open to Arab accusations that he was imposing himself as the Palestinian spokesman and that could prevent him from assuming such a role for a long time to come."

Hussein Fears PLO State

At this stage, Susser said, Hussein's interests are safeguarded, at least in part, by Sadat who is seeking an agreement that will reduce Israel's military presence on the West Bank and, consequently, its role in that territory. Ironically, Hussein's interests are also protected by Israel's steadfast opposition to a PLO state on the West Bank. With a Jordanian population 50 percent Palestinian, a PLO state could radicalize the Palestinian sector of Jordan and threaten the Hashemite rule. "The PLO state is Hussein's greatest fear," Susser noted.

He said that if Israel and Egypt reach an agreement that covers the West Bank, Hussein is likely to go along with the settlement provided that Saudi Arabia supports it. According to Susser, the Saudis are the key element in generating support for Sadat in the Arab world. Because of that factor the U.S. as well as several Arab leaders have gone to Riyadh to enlist Saudi support, he said.

Susser believes that for Hussein to accept a settlement it would have to appear to provide some form of solution to the Palestinian problem and win the support of respectable elements on the West Bank. He observed that the West Bank has no independent power base from which to influence decisions taken in the inter-Arab and international arenas. The views of the West Bankers tend to fluctuate in response to the relative status of the PLO and Hussein in the Arab world.

West Bankers Might Support Monarch

It is likely that if Israel and Egypt reach an agreement acceptable to Jordan, many West Bankers would abandon the PLO and support Hussein, Susser said. He added that Hussein needs the support of the West Bankers to prevent the appearance

that he was imposing himself as their spokesman.

Susser said it may be no coincidence that the Israeli-Egyptian joint political committee will be meeting in Jerusalem. This would allow for quiet, behind-the-scenes involvement of West Bankers and even of Jordan in the negotiations.

Hussein is interested in achieving a peace settlement and would prefer one that federates the West Bank with Jordan and affords him as much influence as possible in that region, Susser said. But Hussein is not genuinely interested in self-determination for the West Bank Palestinians because he shares Israel's fear that an independent West Bank would be dominated by the PLO.

"His timing for involvement depends on how ripe the moment is and on the certainty that he would have more to gain than to lose by entering negotiations," Susser said. "Hussein wants an involvement that will bring peace closer for him, not more distant."

AMICABLE RELATIONS ESTABLISHED BETWEEN ARAB, YIDDISH DAILIES

By Carlos Radbil

BUENOS AIRES, Jan. 11 (JTA)--Amicable relations have been established between the Arab daily newspaper, Assalam, and Nueva Presencia, the weekly supplement of Argentina's only Yiddish daily, Di Presse.

Daily personal and phone contacts between the two papers began recently when Nueva Presencia called Assalam to congratulate it for its editorial "Peace: The Fundamental Possession." In addition, Presencia reprinted the editorial in its entirety, along with favorable comments. Presencia had earlier praised Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's historic trip to Jerusalem.

The mass circulation Argentine daily, Clarin, took note of this development in an article, "Assalam-Peace-Shalom." The article stated that the amicable relations between the Arabic and Yiddish newspapers were symbolic of a new reality and that the contents of both papers in their dealings with Middle East developments are similar in spirit to that which moved Sadat to make his Jerusalem journey. Clarin reproduced parts of Assalam and Presencia articles dealing with the developments in the Mideast.

In addition, the Egyptian Ambassador called Presencia and asked for 30 copies of recent articles on the Mideast and the local television station commented favorably on the positive roles of Assalam and Presencia.

WELCOMING JERUSALEM TALKS WITH MUSIC

NEW YORK, Jan. 11 (JTA)--In tribute to peace efforts and coinciding with the opening of the Egyptian-Israeli political committee talks in Jerusalem Jan. 16, WQXR, the radio station of the New York Times, will broadcast a program on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. focusing on the topic "Peace Through Music."

The program will be devoted to the compositions of Issachar Miron and will include "Ufi Ruach" (Blow Gentle Breeze) composed by him and which was the first Hebrew song played by Radio Cairo Station last Nov. 26 after President Anwar Sadat announced the Cairo conference. Miron, a renowned Israeli composer, former music deputy in the Israeli Ministry of Education and Culture and officer-in-chief of art and humanities of the Israel Defense Forces during the War of Independence, commented: "People can't sing in harmony one night a week and be enemies for the rest of the time. If we sing in harmony, we can also live in harmony."